

The Center

Recognizing that New England has a rich supply of innovative ideas and technologies that can benefit both the environment and the economy—if only they find their way to the marketplace—EPA New England established the Center for Environmental Industry and Technology (the Center or CEIT). **The mission of the Center is to be a window to resources, people, and programs for the environmental technology industry in New England, and to promote the acceptance of innovative environmental technologies to solve the most significant environmental problems in New England.** Through extensive collaboration and networking with other state and federal agencies, the Center offers services for environmental technology developers in the following areas: access to information, and assistance in overcoming regulatory and institutional barriers. In order to promote the acceptance of innovative technologies, the Center also provides access to technology information for the regulated and non-regulated community.

The Challenge

Technology innovation is indispensable to achieving national and international environmental goals. Current technologies are inadequate for solving many present and emerging environmental problems or, in some cases, are too costly for widespread adoption. The policy and regulatory framework administered by EPA and state environmental agencies creates the primary commercial demand for environmental technologies. As this framework has evolved and technology has been installed to meet its requirements, incentives for creating and adopting the next generation of innovative technologies have lessened. Technology developers generally do not have the time to investigate the array of state and federal programs that provide assistance to their industry, and they confront a range of regulatory and market-based obstacles to acceptance of their products. Their market, the regulated community, is frequently not aware of the technologies which could bring them into compliance or take them beyond compliance.

“Today’s complex and evolving environmental challenges demand creative tools and techniques to solve them. Innovative environmental technologies will provide the solutions necessary to address the challenges we face today and in the future.”

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection
Agency—New England

The Center’s Solutions to the Challenge

Access to Information for Technology Developers

The Center acts as a clearinghouse for information, simplifying the technology developer’s search for the right federal or state program. Through its **Ombudsman Hotline**, CEIT staff refer callers to the appropriate organization, program or agency. Environmental and energy technology developers are encouraged to subscribe to the Center’s free monthly electronic newsletter, **EnvirotechNews**. It provides technology developers with : 1) the opportunity to connect with potential technology users, and 2) time critical information relevant to the environmental technology industry. The newsletter covers the following topics: Government Funding Opportunities, Technology Opportunities, Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Opportunities, and Upcoming Events. The monthly issue which is released at the beginning of each month covers all the topics except the Technology Opportunities which are presented in special issues of EnvirotechNews. Another source of information is the Center’s **web site** which is located at: www.epa.gov/ne/assistance/ceit

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The web site directs visitors to many of CEIT's services. For more in-depth information, CEIT produces a technical bulletin entitled **TECHNOVATION**, highlighting government programs and promising technologies. The Center also sponsors an annual **Golden Opportunity Seminar** in which participants learn of opportunities for research and development funding, such as **EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program**. For envirotech companies interested in joint research and technology development with the federal government, the Center provides access to the **Federal Technology Transfer Act (FTTA) Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADA) Program**. By entering into a CRADA, a company has the opportunity to access federal laboratory facilities, collaborate with government scientists and engineers, and obtain exclusive licenses.

Assistance in Overcoming Regulatory and Institutional Barriers

Regulatory and institutional barriers often exist because of a lack of information about new technologies and the absence of a program which could communicate the information. In response to this problem, the Center collaborated with the New England Governors Conference (NEGC) to initiate the **New England Interstate Regulatory Cooperation Project**. This project is a remarkable compact of the six New England state environmental and public health agencies who are cooperating in a regional program to promote the acceptance of innovative environmental technologies. Another program which has proven to help technology developers overcome the resistance to new technologies is **EPA's Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) Program**. ETV was instituted to verify the performance of innovative technical solutions to problems that threaten human health or the environment. EPA's independent Science Advisory Board stated in a recent report, "The scarcity of independent and credible tech-

nology information is one critical barrier to the use of innovative environmental technologies...Verification testing information provided by the ETV program fulfills an essential need of the environmental technology marketplace." The Center works closely with ETV, and it frequently refers technology developers to ETV's verification centers. For more information on ETV, please visit: www.epa.gov/etv

Access to Technology Information

As a means of disseminating the latest information on new technologies, the Center offers **Virtual Trade Shows**, maintains an **Innovative Technology Inventory**, and connects regulated entities to technology developers through **EnvirotechNews**. After five years of sponsoring technology trade shows on non-point source pollution, the Center now offers **Stormwater and Wastewater Virtual Technology Trade Shows** on its web site. The trade shows include background information, as well as information on regulations and permitting, technologies, and links to other relevant sites. Also available on the Center's web site is the **Innovative Technology Inventory**, a unique data base of commercially available innovative environmental technologies. Technologies are organized under twelve categories, and the technology description includes a link to the vendor's web site. New technology vendors can download the entry forms and instructions from CEIT's web site. **EnvirotechNews's** Technology Opportunities offer technology developers the unique opportunity to connect with companies that may be looking for new solutions to specific environmental problems. CEIT summarizes current enforcement actions or environmental problem statements from our web site, announces them under Technology Opportunities, and allows the technology developer to respond. The Center then forwards the responses to the potential users. Through the inventory, the virtual trade shows, and EnvirotechNews, the Center works to promote greater acceptance of innovative technologies in the marketplace.



**Center for
Environmental
Industry &
Technology**

Ombudsman Hotline: **1-800-575-CEIT**
617-918-1783 (beyond New England)

Contact the staff: **Maggie Theroux,**
or **Junenette Peters**

EPA Region 1, New England
1 Congress Street, Suite 1100 (SPP)
Boston, MA 02114-2023

► For additional information, visit our Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/region01/assistance/ceit/>

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